

What is Claimed Is:

1. An ice dispense agitator, comprising,

a unitary agitator body cut from flat metal stock, said agitator body having a plurality of ice sweeping arms extending outward from a central hub and each said ice sweeping arm having an ice moving paddle at an end thereof that is attached to said ice sweeping arm by a bent portion of said ice sweeping arm.
2. An ice dispense agitator as defined in claim 1, said unitary agitator body having at least one ice agitating blade attached to said agitator body by a bent portion of said agitator body and extending in a direction out of a plane of said ice sweeping arms.
3. An ice dispense agitator as defined in claim 2, said at least one ice agitating blade extending in a direction generally transverse to the plane of said ice sweeping arms and having a flange portion, said flange portion having an end edge portion extending along and adjacent a portion of said agitator body and being welded to said adjacent agitator body portion.
4. An ice dispense agitator, comprising:

a unitary agitator body cut from flat metal stock, said agitator body having a central hub that is rotatable about an axis, a plurality of ice sweeping arms extending radially outward from said hub in angular spaced relationship, and an ice moving paddle at an end of each said ice sweeping arm and attached to said end of said ice sweeping arm by a bent portion of said ice sweeping arm.
5. An ice dispense agitator as in claim 4, said unitary agitator body further having at least one ice agitating blade connected at one end thereof to an associated one of said ice sweeping arms by a bent portion of said agitator body and extending in a

direction out of a plane of said associated ice sweeping arm.

6. An ice dispense agitator as in claim 5, said at least one ice agitating blade extending in a direction generally transverse to a direction of extension of said associated ice sweeping arm, being L-shaped and including a pair of legs attached by a bent portion of said ice agitating blade, one leg of said L-shaped blade being connected to said associated ice sweeping arm by said bent portion of said agitator body and the other leg of said L-shaped blade having an end edge portion that extends along and adjacent said associated one of said ice sweeping arms, said end edge portion being welded to said adjacent ice sweeping arm.

7. An ice dispense agitator fabricated from flat metal stock that is cut and bent, comprising:

a unitary agitator body cut from the metal stock, said agitator body, as cut from the metal stock, including the coplanar elements of a central hub having an axis of rotation, a plurality of elongate ice sweeping arms extending radially outward from said hub in angular spaced relationship, and at least one elongate ice agitating blade extending outward from a side edge of an associated one of said ice sweeping arms,

said agitator comprising said unitary agitator body in which an end portion of each said ice sweeping arm is attached to the remainder of said arm by a bent portion of said arm to provide an ice moving paddle on an end of each said ice sweeping arm, and in which said at least one ice agitating blade is attached to said side edge of said associated ice sweeping blade by a bent portion of said agitator body so that the plane of said at least one ice agitating blade extends out of the plane of said associated ice sweeping arm.

8. An ice dispense agitator as in claim 7, wherein the plane of said ice agitating blade extends generally transverse to the plane of said associated ice sweeping arm.

9. An ice dispense agitator as in claim 7, wherein said at least one ice agitating blade is L-shaped and has a pair of legs attached by a bent portion of said ice agitating blade, one leg of said L-shaped blade is connected to said associated ice sweeping arm by said bent portion of said agitator body and the other leg of said L-shaped blade has an end edge portion that extends along and adjacent said associated one of said ice sweeping arms, said end edge portion being welded to said adjacent ice sweeping arm.

10. A method of fabricating an ice dispense agitator, comprising the steps of:
cutting a unitary agitator body from flat metal stock to provide the unitary agitator body with a central hub and a plurality of ice sweeping arms extending outward from the central hub; and

bending a portion of an outer end of each ice sweeping arm to form an ice moving paddle on the outer end of each ice sweeping arm.

11. A method as in claim 10, wherein said cutting step provides the unitary agitator body with at least one ice agitating blade that is coplanar with and extends outward from an associated one of the ice sweeping arms, and including the further step of bending the ice agitating blade out of coplanar relationship with its associated ice sweeping arm.

12. A method as in claim 11, wherein said cutting step provides the ice agitating blade with a flange portion having an end edge portion that, upon performance of said step of bending the ice agitating blade, extends along and adjacent a portion of the associated ice sweeping arm, and including the further step of welding the end edge

portion to the associated ice sweeping arm.

13. A method of fabricating an ice dispense agitator, comprising the steps of:
cutting a unitary agitator body from flat metal stock to provide the unitary agitator body with coplanar elements including a central hub having an axis of rotation, a plurality of elongate ice sweeping arms extending radially outward from the hub in angular spaced relationship, and at least one elongate ice agitating blade extending outward from a side edge of an associated one of the ice sweeping arms;

bending a portion of an outer end of each ice sweeping arm to form an ice moving paddle on the outer end of each ice sweeping arm; and

bending the at least one ice agitating blade out of coplanar relationship with its associated ice sweeping arm.

14. A method as in claim 13; wherein said step of bending the at least one ice agitating blade brings the plane of the ice agitating blade into generally transverse relationship with the plane of the associated ice sweeping arm.

15. A method as in claim 14, including the further step of bending the at least one ice agitating blade along its length to an L-shape, such that one leg of the L-shaped blade has an end edge portion that extends along and directly adjacent the associated one of the ice sweeping arms, and including the further step of welding the one edge portion to the associated ice sweeping arm.

16. A method of fabricating an ice dispense agitator, comprising the steps of:
cutting a unitary agitator body from flat metal stock to provide the unitary agitator body with coplanar elements including a central hub having an axis of rotation, a plurality of elongate ice sweeping arms extending radially outward from the hub in

angular spaced relationship and having end portions and transverse extensions at the end portions, and at least one elongate ice agitating blade extending transversely from a side of an associated one of the ice sweeping arms intermediate the hub and the end portion of the associated ice sweeping arm and having an end edge portion that extends along and adjacent the side of the associated ice sweeping arm;

bending the end portion of each ice sweeping arm out of the plane of the part of the ice sweeping arm between the end portion and the central hub;

bending the transverse extension of each ice sweeping arm out of the plane of the end portion of the ice sweeping arm; and

bending the at least one ice agitating arm out of the plane of its associated ice sweeping arm.

17. A method as in claim 16, wherein said unitary agitator body has an upper surface, said step of bending the end portion of each ice sweeping arm bends the end portion downward out of the plane of the part of the ice sweeping arm between the end portion and the central hub, said step of bending the transverse extension of each ice sweeping arm bends the transverse extension upward out of the plane of the end portion of the ice sweeping arm, and said step of bending the at least one ice agitating blade bends the at least one ice agitating blade upward out of the plane of its associated ice sweeping arm.

18. A method as in claim 17, wherein said step of bending the end portion of each ice sweeping arm bends the end portion downward on the order of about 30° to 60° out of the plane of the part of the ice sweeping arm between the end portion and the central hub.

19. A method as in claim 17, wherein said set of step of bending the transverse extension of each ice sweeping arm bends the transverse extension upward on the order of about 90° out of the plane of the end portion of the ice sweeping arm.

20. A method as in claim 17, wherein said step of bending the at least one ice agitating blade bends the at least one ice agitating blade upward on the order of about 90° out of the plane of its associated ice sweeping arm.

21. A method as in claim 16, wherein said at least one ice agitating blade comprises a plurality of ice agitating blades, each extending transversely from a side of an associated one of the ice sweeping arms.

22. A method as in claim 16, including the further step of bending the at least one ice agitating blade along its length to be L-shaped, such that the bent leg of the L-shaped blade has the end edge portion and the end edge portion extends along and adjacent the associated one of the ice sweeping arms, and including the further step of welding the end edge portion to the associated ice sweeping arm.